

D-799  
Travers Store Building  
Cambridge  
c. 1815, c. 1925  
Private

Standing on the corner of the intersection of High and Gay streets, this two-story, three-bay frame store building, used as a hospital auxiliary's "Robin Hood Shop" since the late 1960s, has at its core a Federal era frame dwelling historically identified as the Samuel LeCompte house. Dating to the first decades of the nineteenth century, the side hall/double-pile plan structure retains elements of Federal woodwork, most significantly the pedimented entrance surround that survives with its arched transom, fluted pilasters, and a Greek Revival two-panel door. The inside surface of the entrance retains original woodwork, and one second floor raised six-panel door survives with a period ovolo and cove backband surround. Otherwise, the building has been modified to suit commercial uses with a roofline reframed with a gable-front façade. Around the same time the first floor elevation was altered to include a recessed entrance and flanking display windows, and the first floor rooms were cleared of partitions and any early nineteenth century finishes.

Land record research for this corner property documents its title back to the first quarter of the nineteenth century under the ownership of Samuel LeCompte (1775-1849), and later, Samuel D. LeCompte, who transferred the house and lot along with other property to Thomas W. Anderson, a probable brother-in-law, in 1854. Six years later, Thomas W. Anderson, named as a trustee in the deed, conveyed the LeCompte house and corner lot to Sarah B. LeCompte, wife of Dr. William B. LeCompte for \$1,200. According to the Cambridge city map published in the Lake, Griffing &

Stevenson atlas, the house was much larger at that time with a two-part wing extending to the south. Dr. and Mrs. LeCompte are listed in the Eighth census of the United States with a sizable real estate and personal net worth valued at \$17,000, which included the ownership of two slaves. Included in the household were six children, Granville, aged 22; William, 20; Charles, 18; Daniel 15; Levin, aged 6 and six-year old Annie. Also residing there was sixty-year old Emily Keene, Sarah's mother, who held \$8,000 in personal property.

The LeCompte house and High Street property remained in family hands until the early twentieth century; William Wirt LeCompte sold the property to Edward S. Phillips in November 1904 for \$2,000. From a consistency in the outline of the house on the various issues of the Sanborn Insurance maps, the building remained a dwelling until the 1920s. The LeCompte house was converted to a commercial use under the ownership of T. Howard Mitchell, who purchased the property in August 1923 and held title to it until March 1944. The 1930 Sanborn Insurance map indicates a store in this location. Between 1950 and 1968 the store was owned and operated by the Travers family. In July 1968 it was acquired by the Women's Auxiliary of the Cambridge Hospital for a consignment shop.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel LeCompte House  
other Travers Store Building, Robin Hood Shop

## 2. Location

street and number 416 High Street not for publication  
city, town Cambridge vicinity  
county Dorchester

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Women's Auxiliary of Dorchester General Hospital  
street and number 416 High Street telephone 410-  
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 156 folio 672  
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4633 tax ID number 7-175086

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-799

### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Samuel LeCompte house, known during the mid twentieth century as the Walter Lee Travers store building, and after the 1960s as the Robin Hood Shop, stands at 416 High Street immediately south of the intersection with Gay Street (formerly Gay Alley) in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story gable-front frame structure, dating from the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The gable-front elevation is sheltered by a two-story square columned porch. The main entrance to the first floor is a recessed doorway flanked by large glass display windows. Located southwest of the commercial entrance is a Federal era doorway dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Attached to the back of the Federal main block is a two-story frame wing. The interior has been reworked during the mid to late twentieth century, but remnants of Federal woodwork survive in the side passage stair hall and second floor.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Samuel LeCompte house, also known as the Travers store building or Robin Hood Shop for the Women's Hospital Auxiliary, has at its core a two-story side hall, double-pile frame dwelling dating from the first decades of the nineteenth century. As a dwelling the house was modified and enlarged during the early twentieth century. During the early twentieth century the LeCompte house was adapted into a commercial space with a rebuilding of the roof and a reworking of the front with a two-story porch and a late Victorian storefront with a recessed entrance and flanking display windows. Supported on a low brick foundation, the main block is sheathed with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The northwest (main) elevation is a gable-front façade dominated by a two-story hip roofed porch. The porch shelters a recessed doorway with flanking display windows as well as a Federal era entrance in the southwestern bay. The Federal doorway features fluted pilasters that rise to a gabled pediment fitted with a round arched transom. Finely executed Federal moldings accent the cove profile crown molding. The entrance is fitted with a Greek Revival two-panel door. The second floor is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration with a second floor doorway flanked by two-over-two sash windows.

The interior of the commercial building has been modified to suit the requirements of a large retail space. The original floor level has been lowered and the northeast end wall has been removed to include an additional amount of first floor space with an addition. The original side hall remains partitioned by only accessed through a later door opening from inside. Inside the side passage, the interior door trim from the Federal era remains in place with a round arched surround featuring a keyblock. The second floor retains its early 19<sup>th</sup> century room partitions, and one Federal surround remains intact with its raised six-panel door. The door surround

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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features an ovolo/cove backband and inner beaded corner. Later bulls-eye block surrounds typical of the Victorian period frame the other door openings.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-799

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Standing on the corner of the intersection of High and Gay streets, this two-story, three-bay, frame store building, used as the hospital auxiliary's Robin Hood Shop since the 1960s, has at its core a Federal era frame dwelling historically known as the Samuel LeCompte house. Dating to the first decades of the nineteenth century, the side hall/double-pile plan structure retains elements of Federal woodwork, most significantly the pedimented entrance surround that survives with its arched transom and a Greek Revival two-panel door. The inside surface of the entrance retains original woodwork, and one second floor six-panel door survives with a period ovolo and cove backband surround. Otherwise, the building has been modified to suit a commercial use with the roofline reframed with a gable-front façade. Around the same time the first story elevation was altered to include a recessed entrance with flanking display windows.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Land record research for this corner property documents its title back to the first quarter of the nineteenth century under the ownership of Samuel LeCompte (1775-1849) and, later, Samuel D. LeCompte, who transferred the house and lot along with other property to Thomas W. Anderson, probably brother-in-law, in 1854.<sup>1</sup> Six years later, Thomas W. Anderson, named as a trustee in the deed, conveyed the LeCompte house and corner lot to Sarah B. LeCompte, wife of Dr. William B. LeCompte for \$1,200.<sup>2</sup> According to the Cambridge city map published in the Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson atlas, the house was much larger with a two-part wing extending to the south. Dr. and Mrs. LeCompte are listed in the Eighth census for the United States with a sizable real and personal estate valued at \$17,000, which included ownership of two slaves.<sup>3</sup> Included in the household were six children, Granville, aged 22; William, 20; Charles, 18; Daniel, 15; Levin, aged 6 and six-year old Annie. Also residing there was sixty-year old Emily Keene, who owned \$8,000 in personal property.

The LeCompte house and High Street property remained in family hands until the early twentieth century; William Wirt LeCompte sold the property to Edward S. Phillips in November 1904 for \$2,000.<sup>4</sup> From a consistency in the outline of the house on the various issues of the Sanborn Insurance map, the building remained a dwelling until the 1920s. The LeCompte house was converted to a commercial space under the ownership of T. Howard Mitchell, who purchased the property in August 1923 and held title to it until March 1944.<sup>5</sup> Between 1950 and 1968 the store was owned and operated by the Travers family. In July 1968 it was acquired by the Women's Auxiliary of the Cambridge Hospital.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 3/26-28, 16 October 1854, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland. Samuel D. LeCompte married Camilla Anderson on 28 April 1841.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 4/531-32, 10 January 1860, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Population and Slaves Schedules for the town of Cambridge, Ancestry.com.

<sup>4</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, CL 30/76, 30 November 1904, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Records, JFD 12/402, 27 August 1923; RSM 49/388, 29 March 1944, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>6</sup> Dorchester County Land Records, RSM 72/95, 15 April 1950; 156/672, 30 July 1968, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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Travers Store Building, "Robin Hood Shop," Samuel LeCompte House)  
416 High Street  
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 301, Parcel 4633

156/672

William R. Travers and Margaret E. Travers

to

7.30.1968

Women's Auxiliary of Cambridge, Maryland Hospital

RSM 102/464

Walter Lee Travers, et ux, Betty Lee Travers

to

12.20.1956

William R. Travers

RSM 72/95

Grace Lee Powell

to

4.15.1950

Walter Lee Travers

South corner of Gay and High streets, 24' on Gay and 54 ½' on High



**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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RSM 64/542

Beatrice Murphy, unmarried

to

12.1.1947

Grace Lee Powell

Store house property with apartment above

RSM 64/541

Louis H. Foxwell

to

12.1.1947

Beatrice Murphy

RSM 49/461

T. Clifton Mitchell and Mary S. Mitchell

to

6.6.1944

Louis H. Foxwell

RSM 49/388

Mary A. Mitchell, Emerson C. Harrington, et ux of  
T. Howard Mitchell

to

3.28.1944

T. Clifton Mitchell, Erma Mitchell Dyson, Nellie Mitchell Bigwood,  
Interests of Erma Mitchell Dyson and Nellie Mitchell Bigwood,  
3.28.1944, RSM 49/390

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

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JFD 13/402

Edward S. Phillips & others (Mary V. Phillips, Louis B. Keene of  
Annapolis, Assignee of Mortgage)

to

8.27.1923

T. Howard Mitchell

CL 30/76

William Wirt LeCompte

to

11.30.1904

Edward S. Phillips

\$2,000 "Gay Alley" whereon Mrs. Sarah B. LeCompte, mother of  
William Wirt LeCompte, resided at the time of her death

CL 24/548

Daniel H. LeCompte and others

to

7.30.1900

William Wirt LeCompte

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

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FJH 4/531-32

Thomas W. Anderson, Trustee

to

I.10.1860

Sarah B. LeCompte, wife of Dr. William B. LeCompte

\$1,200 all that House & Lot, premises and appurtenances situated lying and being in the town of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland and at the intersection of High Street & Gay Alley and on the southern side of said Street and Alley binding on said Alley from the intersection of the lot of John R. Keene to said High Street then along said High Street to the lot of Cassey Kennard, free Negro, then binding therewith to the Lot of John R. Keene & then Binding therewith to the place of beginning, and being the same House and Lot & premises which was occupied by the said Samuel D. LeCompte during his residence in Cambridge

FJH 3/26-28

Samuel D. LeCompte of Baltimore City

to

10.16.1854

Thomas W. Anderson

Expedited liquidation of property including

"...the House and Lot in the Town of Cambridge lately occupied by him the said Samuel D. LeCompte at the corner of High Street and Gay Alley, also the house and lot now occupied by John Mowbray and Budd Mowbray in the Town of Cambridge and nearly opposite the Market House on Market Street, also all of those Lots called "Bellfield" or by whatever known name lying adjacent to or partly within the Corporate Limits of the said Town...."

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

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WJ 5/517

Jeremiah C. Wright and wife

to

10.28.1850

Samuel D. LeCompte

\$210.00

All that lot of ground commencing at a stone boulder on High Street in the town of Cambridge near the corner of the town Hall, thence running square with said Street to a stone boulder standing where Miss Susan Woolford's lot was formerly intersected by the said line, thence running nearly a South West course until it intersects Gay Alley, thence binding with said Alley until it intersects High Street, and thence binding with said High Street back to the Stone boulder whence it started...

WJ 4/140

James A. Stewart and Peter Wheeler of Dorchester County

to

3.20.1848

Samuel D. LeCompte, formerly of Carroll County, but now of Dorchester County

Referenced mortgage in WJ 1/176-178 for in consideration of \$2,000 owing from the said Samuel D. LeCompte to the said James A. Stewart

The following property, to wit: all that tract of land on the south side of the road leading from Cambridge to Castle Haven Neck and known by the name of Bellfield, and containing fifty two acres of land more or less; part of

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

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which had formerly been bought by Samuel LeCompte of Brice J. Goldsborough, trustee to sell the real estate of Charles K. Bryan, and part by the said Samuel LeCompte of John Goldsborough of Talbot County, and also a House and lot situated in the Town of Cambridge and formerly conveyed to said Samuel LeCompte by John Catrup and Ann Maria, his wife, and also that part or parcel of ground formerly conveyed by Thomas Barrow to said Samuel LeCompte, and also all that parcel of ground conveyed by Thomas White to the said said Samuel LeCompte, known by the name of Nevitt's Double Purchase....

WJ 2/248

John H. Hodson, Sheriff of Dorchester County

to

2.3.1845

Samuel D. LeCompte

Whereas on the twenty ninth day of April in the year 1842, a certain writ of the State of Maryland, of fieri facias and issued forth out of Dorchester County Court, to the said late Sheriff, at that time, the Sheriff of the said County directed, commanding him that of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Samuel LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte, late of Dorchester County, yeoman, be cause to be made & levied as well as certain debt of one thousand dollars, current money, which Wheatly Beckwith, lately in said county recovered against the said Samuel LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte, as also the further sum of five dollars and eighty one and one third cents, costs, which the said Wheatley Beckwith in said Court were adjudged—And Whereas on the same day and year last aforesaid, a certain other writ of the State of Maryland of fieri facias did issue forth out of the said Court, to the said Sheriff of said County directed, commanding him that of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Samuel and Edward P. LeCompte, in his baliwick found, he should cause to be

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8

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made and levied, as well the sum of six thousand dollars, current money, which Hopkins and Brothers lately is said Court before the Judges thereof at Cambridge, recovered against the aid Sameul LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte, for their damages which they had sustained by occasion of the non performance of a certain promise and assumption of the said Samuel LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte to the said Hopkins and Brothers, then before that time made, and also further the sum of three dollars and twenty cents, costs, which to the said Hopkins and Brothers were adjudged—And Whereas also on the twenty eighth day of September in the year last aforesaid, a certain other writ of the said State of Maryland of fieri facias did issue forth out of Dorchester County Court to the said Sheriff of said County directed, commanding him that of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said Samuel LeCompte and Edward P. LeCompte, in his bailiwick found, he should cause to be made as well the sum of eight hundred dollars,, which Benjamin F. and Robert S. Voss, then before that time made, as also the further sum of five dollars and twenty three and two third cents to them adjudged....

And Whereas also, after due notice being given of the same, the Sheriff, did on the twelfth day of December in the year 1842, expose the said lands and tenements, goods, and chattels, to public sale to the highest bidder, and the herein before named Samuel D. LeCompte, party of the second part, became the highest bidder at the before mentioned sale on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October in the year last aforesaid, of the following tracts or parcels of land, called Bellfield, which the said Samuel LeCompte purchased of Charles K. Bryan, containing thirty acres more or less, and also one other tract or parcel of land called Bellfield, which the said Samuel LeCompte purchased of Charles Goldsborough containing twenty four and one-half acres of land more or less, for the sum of eight hundred and seventy five dollars, also of a House & lot on High Street in Cambridge, occupied at the time of his death by Edward P.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9

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LeCompte, for the sum of six hundred and five dollars, and also of negro man John for the sum of one hundred dollars; and also of negro boy Daniel for the sum of one hundred and ninety five dollars, and also of negro woman Minty for the sum of thirty six dollars, and also of other personal property, including Horses & Cows and House hold furniture for the sum of one hundred and fifty six dollars and sixty nine cents, And Whereas also the said Samuel D. LeCompte, party of the second part, became the purchaser of the said sale on the twelfth day of December in the year last aforesaid of part of Manning's Marsh & Asburn, being the residue of the said tracts as described in the special return under the last named writ aforementioned, after one half thereof is laid off to a certain James A. Stewart, the purchaser of so much, for the sum of ninety three dollars and fifty cents, the whole containing twenty and one half acres more or less, the part purchased by the said Samuel D. LeCompte containing three and one half acres more or less, for the sum of ninety three dollars and fifty cents—And also of the Stables and lot on Gay Alley in the Town of Cambridge for the sum of three hundred and five dollars, And the said Samuel D. LeCompte party of the second part, hath since paid the said purchase money for all and singular the above mentioned tracts or parcels of land, and for all and singular the above mentioned goods and chattels, lands, and tenements, and being desirous of obtaining a title to the said lands and tenements, goods and chattels in consequence thereof....

ER 10/286

Anthony Manning

to

5.22.1826

Samuel LeCompte

Lots of ground in the town of Cambridge (which were conveyed



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building, aka Samuel LeCompte House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 10

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to said Anthony Manning by Henry Elbert, 1.1.1822, ER  
8/139-141)

ER 4/382  
County

Thomas James Pattison, Esq. late Sheriff of Dorchester

to

10.8.1816

Samuel LeCompte

\$91.00 "Nevitt's Double Purchase" and in the town of  
Cambridge...being the same lot or parcel of Ground which the  
said Joseph Ennalls purchased from a certain Thomas Manning on  
the second day of September in the year 1803

Samuel LeCompte, born 3.25.1775, d. 8.21.1849

Araminta LeCompte, consort of Samuel LeCompte, b. 7.28.1786, d. 1.12.1847

Samuel LeCompte married Araminta Smoot on 1.6.1814

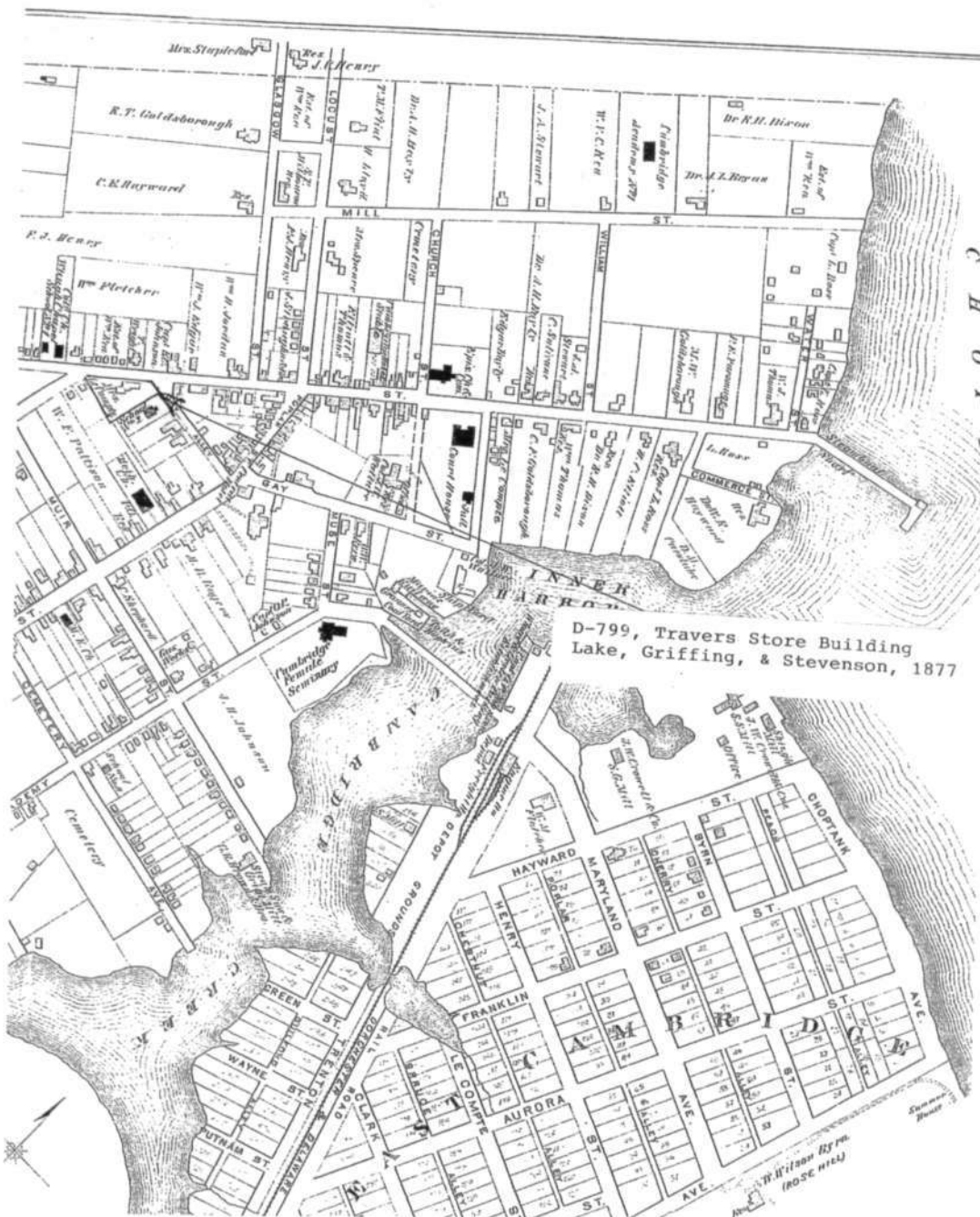
Samuel D. LeCompte married Camilla Anderson on 4.28.1841.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name      Travers Store Building  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4

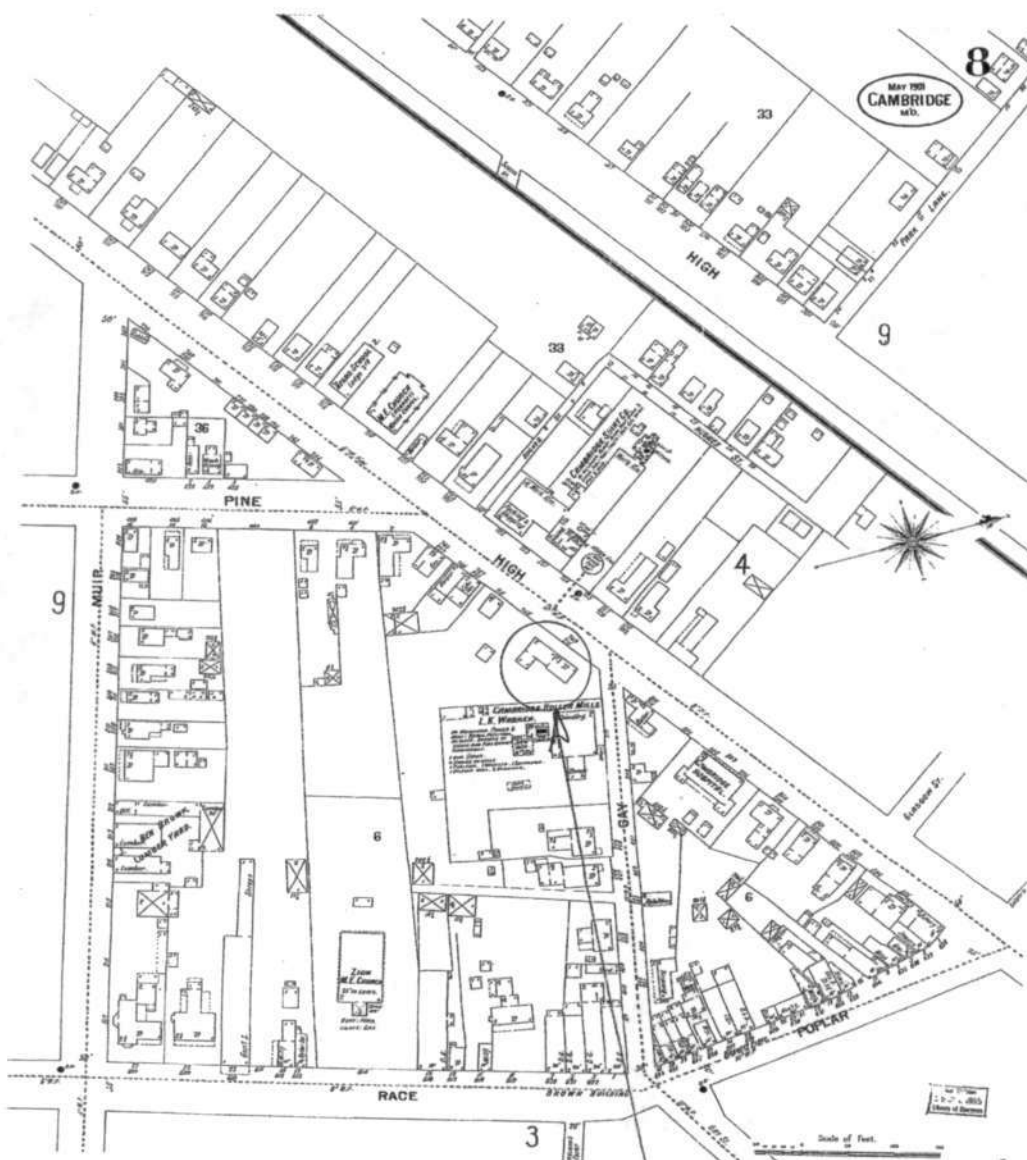


# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 6



D-799, Travers Store Building  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-799

Name Travers Store Building  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 7



D-799, Travers Store Building  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-799

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland

Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Population and Slave Schedules, Ancestry.com.

Graham, John L. The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Library of Congress.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,125 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown Town Lot Size  
Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland Quad. Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1.6.2011
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

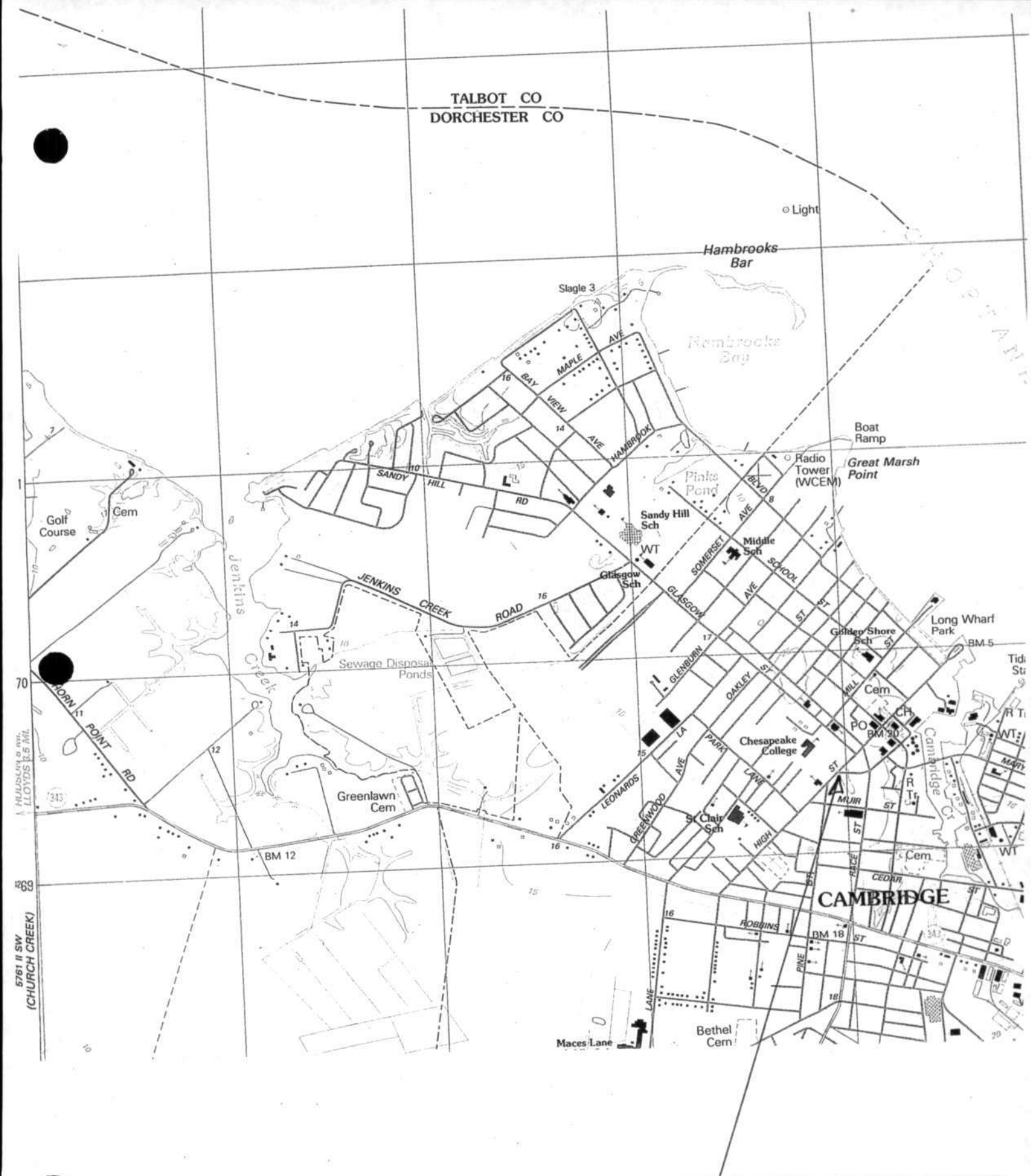
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



TALBOT CO  
DORCHESTER CO



D-799, Travers Store Building  
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle





Robin Hand Shop  
Sandy Beach

D-799

TRAVERS STONE BUILDING  
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO. MD.  
NORTHWEST ELEVATION -

1. 2011, PAUL B. TONAKS, PHOTO  
NET, / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 2

NEW ROOF

THANKS TO



George B.

Todd

FOUNDATION

4  
1  
6



D-799

TEARERS Stone Building  
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER,  
CO. MD.

FEDERAL ENTRANCE  
TO NORMAN HOUSE  
1. 2011, PAUL B. TOWANT,  
PITTSB.

WET. / MIT 1755. Trust

2 of 2